



CITY OF SAN MARINO

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

San Marino works toward realizing a sustainable water future

Water is a precious commodity, especially in Southern California. San Marino's water comes from three main sources – two groundwater basins and the imported supplies throughout the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California. All three sources are experiencing declining supplies. This presents a unique and challenging period for our community and all of Southern California to confront in the coming years, prompting public interest locally and throughout the state on how to properly manage our valuable water resources.

Careful monitoring and managing of available local supplies is necessary while MWD embarks on efforts to make the imported sources more reliable in the years ahead. A proposed water conservation ordinance for the city of San Marino, currently under review by the City Council, exemplifies a local approach that sets baseline standards for outdoor water use. The proposal reflects how San Marino's water future is directly connected to challenges facing the region and entire state, prompting the need for careful management here at home.

Groundwater

About 85 percent of San Marino's water traditionally has come from local groundwater supplies. The city is geographically fortunate to reside over two different groundwater basins – the so-called Raymond Basin and the Main San Gabriel Basin. Both, however, are showing signs of significant stress.

For years, water basins in the area have been managed by a court-created "watermaster" system. Every year, watermasters for the Raymond and Main San Gabriel basins identify the sustainable level of pumping from the aquifers. Locally, the California American Water Company, not the City of San Marino, has rights to some of this groundwater and services the San Marino area.

In the case of the Raymond Basin, the watermaster has determined that the supply available to San Marino and other communities will need to decrease by 30 percent in order to maintain the long-term sustainability of the basin.

The Main San Gabriel Basin, meanwhile, has similar constraints. After a series of below-average rainfall years and continued groundwater pumping, the water level of the basin has never been lower in 106 years of record keeping (water can't be found until roughly 200 feet below the surface). It is likely that

available supplies from this source will be curtailed in future years, absent a dramatic shift in rainfall patterns that would replenish the basin.

Metropolitan Water District

San Marino was among the founding members of this regional water district 81 years ago. Now MWD imports and distributes supplies to six county areas serving more than 19 million people.

MWD receives its imported supplies from two sources – the Colorado River and Northern California's Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Colorado River supplies are shared among seven western states. A decade ago, supplies were sufficient to provide "surplus" waters to MWD and its member agencies such as San Marino. That is no longer the case. Long-term climate forecasts are predicting less precipitation in this basin, translating into supply uncertainties for MWD.

In Northern California, deteriorating environmental conditions in the Delta have led to the most severe water supply restrictions in the history of the State Water Project, which is the system of dams and aqueducts that brings the supply to the southland. Before these recent restrictions, MWD could replenish its reservoirs and groundwater basins seven out of 10 years. Now the situation is the exact opposite. Absent other actions, MWD now faces the prospect of depleting its water reserves seven out of 10 years. This is an unsustainable management pattern that has prompted the first limits in allocations to San Marino and other member agencies since 1991.

In years past, water from MWD has helped to replenish San Marino's primary supply, the Main San Gabriel Basin. This replenishment supply is currently not available and is increasingly becoming less reliable. This is how water supply challenges at a regional level are also contributing to challenges here at home.

While a full-scale effort is underway to improve the reliability of Delta supplies, major improvements to the Delta conveyance system and the ecosystem could take many years. Water agencies throughout Southern California are planning for this challenging period. Lowering water demands each year through achievable conservation strategies is an important tool to stretch the region's water reserves and to preserve our precious groundwater basins. ■

Watch for the next water article in the City's newsletter, which will address San Marino's water ordinance and how it impacts residents.

Be mindful of 25 miles per hour school zone speed limits

As part of an ongoing effort to keep the children in our community safe, the San Marino Police Department would like to remind motorists to be aware of the existing school zones and to comply with the 25 miles per hour (mph) speed limit when children are present.

Every day, thousands of cars travel Huntington Drive through San Marino. These same sections of roadway are used by hundreds of children traveling to and from school.

As outlined in California Vehicle Code 22352(a)(2)(B), the speed limit in a school zone is 25 mph when children are present. The violation must occur during school hours (before or after school) and there must not be any obstructions between the violators and children (i.e. fences).

Huntington Drive between Virginia and West, adjacent to Huntington Middle School and Valentine Elementary School, is posted as a school zone.

In the past, patrols have been highly visible in school zones to aid in enforcing the speed limit, but citations have rarely been issued. As traffic has increased, more residents have begun voicing concern about speeding vehicles near schools. In response, the Police Department has taken measures to step up its enforcement efforts to heighten the public's aware-

ness of the school zone speed limit and to enhance pedestrian safety.

The Police Department has increased its presence in school zones, primarily in front of Valentine Elementary School and Huntington Middle School, both on Huntington Drive, as well as to the rear of the schools on Sherwood Road.

For the first weeks of increased patrol, officers will provide warnings to violators. After this initial period, citations will be issued at the officers' discretion to those exceeding the posted speed limit.

For more information about the campaign to increase awareness of school zone speed limits, contact the San Marino Police Department at (626) 300-0720. ■



San Marino Centennial Celebration planned for 2013

The City of San Marino will turn 100 in 2013! A Centennial Celebration is in the works, and a special Gala Dinner will be held at the Huntington Library on Thursday, April 25, 2013 as part of a year filled with festive activities. Families, merchants and all community members are invited to help plan and participate in the festivities.

A Centennial Steering Committee was formed approximately one year ago to begin the planning process. Former Mayor and longtime San Marino resident Paul Crowley is serving as the Honorary Chairman. Former Councilmember and Mayor Gene Dryden and Winnie Reitnouer, who with her husband Lynn chaired the City's 75th Diamond Jubilee, are co-chairs.

Delegates from the City Council include Mayor Eugene Sun and Councilmember Richard Sun. Representing the City of San Marino are City Manager Matt Ballantyne and Assistant City Manager Cindy Collins. Bringing years of experience and talent to the committee are Ave Bortz (Vice Chair), Janice Lee-McMahon, Randy Shulman, Rary Simmons and Ken Veronda.

After in-depth discussions of goals and projects, the group created an Oversight Committee to design the structure and activities that will bring together all aspects of San Marino's past and present. Karen Preston was invited to be the chair and to also take a seat on the Steering Committee. Preston created a detailed organizational flow chart and has begun identifying community members to chair and participate in the many designated categories.

Watch for ongoing announcements of opportunities to be involved in the Centennial Celebration. All members of the community are invited to take part and look back in time as well as help plan the future. ■

Obtain dog licenses and pets at December adoption event

Dog licenses and an adorable assortment of furry friends, including dogs and a few cats, will be available at a mobile pet adoption event on Saturday, December 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Thurnher House parking lot (1485 Virginia Road). The event will include 14 adoptable animals from the Pasadena Humane Society (PHS) and a booth at which to obtain City dog licenses.

The PHS is currently canvassing for dog licenses. To avoid penalty fees for no licenses, it is highly recommended that residents take advantage of this event and license their dogs. City dog licenses help offset the costs associated with contracting PHS.

Those interested in adopting will be asked to complete an application prior to visiting with any of the animals. Potential pet owners will have an opportunity to inquire about training, spaying/neutering and other related topics.

Once a pet has been selected and is ready to go home with its new owners, the owners will be asked to sign an adoption contract and pay an adoption fee. The fee helps to cover the cost of surgery, vaccines and daily care that the animal received.

For more information about the upcoming mobile pet adoption event, contact the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151 or visit www.pasadenahumane.org. The pet adoption event was made possible through the coordinating efforts of Nathan Tsai, a Life Scout from Troop 358 in San Marino. ■



Protect yourself from flu viruses

The San Marino Fire Department would like to offer important information regarding this year’s Seasonal Influenza and Swine Flu viruses. Seasonal Influenza (also called flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus. It can cause mild to severe illness and sometimes death. Seniors; young children; pregnant women; and those with certain conditions such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease are at increased risk for serious complications from Seasonal Influenza. Symptoms include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

The flu is thought to spread mainly through coughing or sneezing by those who are infected. Some people become infected by touching an item with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. The best way to prevent infection is by getting a flu vaccination, participating in a thorough hand-washing regimen throughout the day and keeping your hands away from your face.

Swine Flu (also called H1N1) is a new influenza virus. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. The virus is spreading from person to person worldwide, probably in much the same way that the regular Seasonal Influenza virus is spread.

H1N1 symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported vomiting and diarrhea as well as respiratory symptoms without a fever. Severe illness and death have occurred in some cases. However, most people who have become ill with this virus have recovered without requiring medical treatment.

It is recommended that seniors; young children; pregnant women; and those with certain conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease and chronic kidney disease receive the H1N1 vaccination. The best way to prevent this virus is to get the H1N1 vaccination, participate in a thorough hand-washing regimen throughout the day and keep your hands away from your face.

The San Marino Fire Department wishes everyone a healthy and safe holiday season and recommends always checking with your doctor or health professional before receiving the Seasonal Influenza and/or H1N1 vaccination. For more information about either one of these serious illnesses, please visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention web site at www.cdc.gov. ■

**SR-710 Tunnel Technical Study
Community Meeting**

**CalTrans and Metro welcome your
continued interest and participation
in upcoming community meetings
scheduled in Study Area communities.
Tuesday, January 26, 2010 from 6 to 8 p.m.
San Marino Center (1800 Huntington Blvd.)**

Bookmark contest entries due

Friday, December 4 is the last day to submit designs for the Third Annual Crowell Public Library Bookmark Contest. The library will debut six new designs in 2010.

Participants must be 18 years old and under with a library card. Winning designers will receive two tickets to Disneyland. Entry forms are available at the library or at www.crowellpubliclibrary.org.

Every year the library is fortunate to work with a local business to sponsor the bookmark contest. This year, the library thanks 2009 sponsor Jasmine Café of San Marino for its continued community support and efforts to connect children, art and business.

For more information about this year’s bookmark contest, please contact the San Marino Public Library Foundation at (626) 300-0779, extension 544. ■

Passport and Photo Services

**Passports will be accepted
at the Crowell Public Library
beginning this month.
Call the library for more information
at (626) 300-0777.**

City Council
Eugene Sun, Mayor
Dennis Kneier, Vice Mayor
Dr. Richard Sun, Councilmember
Richard Ward, Councilmember
Dr. Allan Yung, Councilmember
Matt Ballantyne, City Manager
(626) 300-0700
www.sanmarinoca.gov

LIBRARY NEWS



Holiday Closures
The library will be closed on Thursday, December 24; Friday, December 25; Thursday, December 31; and Friday, January 1 for the holidays. You can still access Library resources on these dates by visiting <http://crowellpubliclibrary.org>. You can renew books; pay fines; reserve items; and explore magazines, newspapers, encyclopedias and ValueLine from the comfort of your home, 24/7.

Special Thanks
This past April, the library was awarded a grant from the Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts (PSHA) to purchase musical instruments for storytimes and musical books and Raffi CDs for the children’s collection. These materials are available for checkout now. The library would like to extend a special thanks to PSHA.

“Polar Express” Program
All aboard for the “Polar Express” program on Saturday, December 12 at 2 p.m.! Register your youngster (and get your ticket) at the Children’s Desk. There might even be a special visit from Santa!

Bilingual Chinese and English Storytime
The Crowell Public Library is proud to present an all new interactive storytime for speakers of Mandarin Chinese, English or both on Tuesday, December 15 at 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and fingerplays will be conducted in both languages. The program is designed for children 3 to 5 years old, but all ages are welcome.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover
Children are invited to bring their plush pets to the library for a special “stuffed animal-only” library sleepover. Participants will be treated to a special storytime and then put the animals to bed. Toy drop-off is on Tuesday, December 29 at 7 p.m. and pick-up is on Wednesday, December 30 at

10:30 a.m. When children return for their stuffed animal, they can expect a special surprise!

Selling on eBay for Beginners
Start the New Year right by lightening your load and filling your pockets with money. On Tuesday, January 5 at 1 p.m., Susan Chick will walk attendees through the basics of selling on eBay, including creating PayPal and eBay accounts, organizing merchandise, posting items with quality pictures, shipping and strategies on how to maintain a seller’s positive rating to keep you in business for years. This event is free.

Teen Anime Club
Anime lovers are invited to gather with fellow fans on Friday, January 8 at 3:15 p.m. to watch and discuss their favorite anime films at Crowell Public Library’s brand new Anime Club. Japanese refreshments will be served. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Crowell Public Library.

Give the Brain a Rest
The popular Brain Aerobics program is on hiatus for the holidays. Francine Katz will be back starting Monday, January 11, with classes available on Mondays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. or on Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Barks & Books
Elementary school children are invited to the Crowell Public Library every third Saturday of the month beginning on January 16 at 11 a.m. to practice their reading skills by reading to a gentle dog. This special program is made possible by volunteers of the Pasadena Humane Society. Registration is not required.

Book Donations
The Friends of the Crowell Public Library run the Book Shoppe located near the patio area. Donations of gently used items (books, videos and DVDs) for resale are welcome. All proceeds benefit programs and collections in the library. ■

Watch for the Community Library Survey!

The Crowell Public Library has been open for two years now. In January, the community will have an opportunity to provide valuable feedback via a Community Library Survey. What are we doing right? How can we serve you better? Look for the survey in your mailbox or online, or ask for it at the Library. One lucky participant will win a new iPod. ■

Plan ahead for holiday parties

As invitations begin rolling in for holiday parties, the San Marino Police Department would like to remind residents to plan ahead to ensure that parties go smoothly and are enjoyed by all those involved.

When parties become loud or a nuisance to others in the neighborhood, the police are sometimes called to the house. Although calling City Hall or the Police Department in advance of an event does not guarantee that there will be no problems or police response at the actual party, it can be very helpful in reducing the likelihood of such a response.

If there is a special event permit, valet permit or tent permit needed, this issue can be resolved in advance. To help ensure that none of these issues arise at the last minute, it is best to send a letter prior to the event with information such as the date, time, location, number of guests and details about entertainment or music. This provides the party host, City and Police Department with documentation of what has or has not been done in advance.

Oftentimes party hosts don’t notify their neighbors about an upcoming event. While this is not required and there is no guarantee that this type of notification will eliminate any complaints, it is both courteous and generally successful in reducing or eliminating any potential problems. It is also helpful to provide neighbors with a telephone number so that they can contact the party host directly if they have a complaint. When neighbors are aware that a party will be taking place, what it is for and when it will be over, they are usually more understanding about any impact it may have on their daily routines.

Despite taking all of these measures, the situation can still arise where a neighbor calls the Police Department to complain about a party. Responding officers will investigate and, if there is a violation, they will address it. For example, if the complaint is about loud music or noise, they will inform the party host and give them an opportunity to resolve the problem. If the situation is not resolved to the satisfaction of the officer or the complaining party, the officers will take appropriate measures to rectify the issue.

With proper advanced planning and cooperation, these simple steps can go a long way toward helping everyone enjoy a great holiday season and parties. ■

**Green Corner
Spotlight on trees**



Maintenance:
November through February is the ideal time to prune your conifers, including pine trees. In cooler weather, the sap flow on conifers is reduced, decreasing the risk of bark beetle damage.

Trees of Interest:
White Oak (*Quercus alba*) trees mature into exceptional shade trees. Their strong, straight trunks grace lawns with a majesty unmatched by most. When given sufficient room to grow, the crowns of these trees dominate a lawn and provide an interesting branch pattern. Their “white” bark is attractive and they bear elegant acorns. The dense foliage of the trees is bluish-green to reddish-brown in fall. The White Oak is the tree from which the phrase “The Mighty Oak” was coined.

White Oaks often reach 80 feet tall with rounded crowns 80 feet in width. They should be planted in full sun and acidic soil, and are drought-tolerant and require good drainage. Give this large tree plenty of space in which to grow as well as plenty of time. The White Oak is included in “The Trees of Lacy Park” brochure that identifies outstanding specimen trees.

Green Tip:
The City’s Christmas tree recycling will be provided by Athens Services. Athens will pick up your tree, grind it and recycle it into mulch. Before disposing of your tree, remove all stands, decorations and nails. Trees may be placed next to your regular trash receptacles. Athens will collect Christmas trees on normal trash pick-up days beginning the day after Christmas through the second week of January. For more information, please call (888) 336-6100.

Reminder:
With the weather cooling down, remind your gardeners/landscape professionals to adjust your irrigation controllers. It is also a good idea to turn off your controller or switch it to “rain off” before and after it rains. ■

To submit a comment about the “Green Corner,” contact Administrative Services Manager Ron Serven at (626) 300-0789 or rserven@cityofsanmarino.org.